(c) if so, what are the Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in its study report on "Electricity Transaction-creating Commercial Outlook" has called for a turn around in physical and financial performance of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) on commercial principles through electricity reforms. CII has written to the Government of India (Ministry of Power) that the State power sector has been unable to provide accessible and affordable power. According to CII, unless the solvency, liquidity and overall financial health of SEBs improve through reforms, the private sector projects may not be feasible.

(b) No such reference has been made in the above mentioned study report.

(c) Does not arise.

Survey for electrification in the Phulesh Village at Azamgarh in U.P.

3286. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey on Rural Electirfication especially in the Phulesh Village, Azamgarh, U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the electrification process will be completed in the said village; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The matter has been taken up with the Govenrment of Uttar Pradesh to obtain the details as regards electrification of the village Phulcsh in Azamgarh, UP.

Tackling drinking water problem in Kerala

3287. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleasd to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of the news-item captioned "Wells do a vanishing trick in Kerala" appearing in the Hindu dated 23rd June, 2001;

(b) whether wells which are the main source of drinking water for rural people in the State, have caved and cease to exist;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government in tackling the drinking water problem of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the records available with the Central Ground Water Board, about 140 wells have caved in the season (June-July, 2001), collapsed partially or completely in differenct districts of Kerala State.

(c) As per the findings of the Committee consisting of Central Ground Water Board, Centre for Earth Sciene Studies, Mines and Geology and the Geological Survey of India, the main reasons that appear to have contributed to the wells collapse are the type of well lining, lithological conditions, rainfall intensity and recharge, and absence of free flow of water across the well lining from the aquifer to the well. The sudden build up of different water pressure has also been attributed as another reason to the incidents of wells collapse.

(d) Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rural Drinking Water component of the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The wells which are reported to have caved in or collapsed in different districts in Kerala State are private wells and do not come under the rural drinking water supply schemes implemented by the Government.

Kerala Government has been allocated Rs. 63.31 crore under ARWSP and Rs. 7.74 crore under Rural Drinking Water component of PMGY for the current year, out of which Government of India have already released Rs. 31.65 crore as first instalment under ARWSP.

Release of DRDA Funds to Assam

3288. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: